

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 16-19, 21, 23-30, 36-40, 42-44, and 46-49 are pending in this application after this Amendment. Claims 1, 18, 21, 39, and 43 are independent. By this Amendment, Applicants are canceling claims 15, 20, 22, 31-35, 41, and 45 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims after this Amendment are in proper form for allowance.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-4, 22-23, 36-38, 41, and 42. The Examiner further indicated that claims 17-18, 21, 26, 30, 35, 39-40, and 43-45 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 18, 21, 39, and 43 to be rewritten in independent form to include the elements of their respective independent claims. Applicants have canceled the rejected independent claims and further have amended the dependent claims to be dependent upon allowable independent claims. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are now in proper form for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner pass the present application to issue.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully


requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a). A check in the amount of \$110.00 in payment of the extension of time fee is attached.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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